



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL RICHARD E. SMITH

Colonel Richard E. Smith was born in Gary Indiana on 22 September 1955 and graduated from Gary Roosevelt High School in 1973. He began his undergraduate studies at Purdue University, in West Lafayette Indiana in August 1975. While at Purdue he attained the position of Cadet Corps Commander of over 200 Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) cadets and was a Distinguished Graduate from the AFROTC program. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Education from Purdue in 1979. In 1985 he received his Masters degree in Aviation Management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. His professional military education includes Squadron Officers School, Air Command and Staff College, Armed Forces Staff College, and Air War College.

Colonel Smith's first assignment was to Undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance AFB, Oklahoma in November 1979. Following graduation in 1980, he completed B-52 Combat Crew Training at Castle AFB in California and was assigned to the 46th Heavy Bombardment Squadron at Grand Forks AFB in North Dakota where he served as a B-52 Copilot, Stan/Eval Copilot, Aircraft Commander and Training Flight Instructor Pilot.

In 1987, Colonel Smith reported to Dyess AFB for initial B-1 training. After completion he was assigned to the 37th Bomb Squadron at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota as a B-1 Instructor Pilot, tasked with reactivating the 37th as a B-1 unit.

Colonel Smith returned to Dyess AFB, Texas in July 1989 as a 338th Combat Crew Training Squadron, Flightline Instructor Pilot. While at Dyess he held several leadership positions to include Functional Check Pilot, Evaluator Pilot and Chief of B-1 Pilot Academics, responsible for academic training for all B-1 pilots throughout Air Combat Command. He departed Dyess for Maxwell AFB, Alabama in August 1992 to attend Air Command and Staff College.

In July 1993, Colonel Smith was assigned to US Strategic Command at Offutt AFB in Nebraska as an Aircraft Strike Planner. He developed, coordinated and maintained our nation's nuclear war employment plan known as the Single Integrated Operational Plan (SIOP) for B-1, B-2 and B-52 aircraft. He later became Chief of Aircraft Quality Review section where in conjunction with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, his duties included coordinating the development of nuclear employment guidance and ensuring SIOP compliance with National nuclear employment policy.

Colonel Smith returned to Dyess AFB, Texas in December 1995 for B-1 requalification training and was assigned to the 28th Operational Support Squadron at Ellsworth AFB as a Combat Planner in March 1996.

Colonel Smith took command of the 37th Bomb Squadron in June 1996. His leadership propelled the 37th Bomb Squadron to new heights and established Ellsworth AFB as the B-1 warfighting “Center of Excellence” for the entire Air Force. His unparalleled performance earned him assignment as deputy commander of 28th Operations Group, Ellsworth AFB, from October 1997 to August 1998.

Colonel Smith was assigned to Langley AFB, Virginia, as Chief of Operations Inspections Branch, Inspection Squadron, Office of the Inspector General, Headquarters, Air Combat Command from August 1998 to July 2000. A key member of this selectively manned, MAJCOM Inspector General Field Operating Agency responsible to the Commander of Air Combat Command, for determining the combat readiness of all assigned active and gained units. His outstanding professionalism and superb leadership skill guided the comprehensive re-write of command inspection guidance to support the Air Expeditionary Force structure.

He completed Air War College in residence at Maxwell AFB, Alabama and is currently assigned to the Air Staff at the Pentagon as the Vice Director of the Air Force Studies and Analyses Agency.

Colonel Smith is a Command Pilot with over 3300 hours of flying time. His decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Third Oak Leaf Cluster, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, and Combat Readiness Medal, Fourth Oak Leaf Cluster.

He was promoted to Colonel with date of rank 1 January 2001.

Colonel Smith is married to Yvonne Spivey-Smith of Gary Indiana. They have one son, Richard Jr. and one daughter, Rona.